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Our Virgin Continent.

**With the Compliments of the
Author.**

VIRGIN CONTINENT

A LECTURE

DELIVERED UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF THE

ST. STEPHEN LITERARY ASSOCIATION

IN WATSON'S HALL

ON THE EVENING OF THE 17TH OF MARCH, 1883

BIBLIOTHEQUE
BY A. R. MAIN
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ST. JOHN, N. B.

R. A. H. MORROW

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ENCLOSURE
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THE following lecture pretends to no greater merit than that of being my opinion of the country, based on personal observation and experience, during several years residence in Winnipeg, while conducting the Manitoba Land Bureau and in travelling throughout the territories in connection therewith; together with a compilation of facts from the best authorities. The subject was chosen because of my earnest conviction that the one great want of Canada is a hearty appreciation by Canadians of its splendid resources, and the promise which these, properly developed, hold out for the future. It was not written for publication, but a general request having been made that it should be published, I have acceded to the request in the hope that the statements contained in it in relation to "Our Virgin Continent" may in some degree contribute to that object.

A. R. M.

OUR VIRGIN CONTINENT.

When any country has become, or is likely to become the theater of important changes, it becomes a deeply interesting and instructive study to familiarize ourselves with the leading events in its history; its geographical position, physical features, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing capabilities, mineral resources, political, educational and religious institutions, and the manners, customs and characteristics of its people.

To such a study I now invite attention. Of the many vast and magnificent regions over which waves so proudly the red-cross flag of England, none are destined to occupy a more honorable and influential position, than the territories of Canada. The subject of my lecture this evening may be summed up in these words of the poet :

“Though there are softer airs, and brighter skies,
And art despoiled, in splendid ruin lies,
Can glittering gems, or polished marble vie
With all this fresh and youthful majesty ?
Broad lakes, bold mountains, prairie, rock and flood,
These nature formed in one fantastic mood,
Then, careless smiling, threw away her mould.”

Principal Grant says: “Beyond the dividing ridge which separates the waters flowing into Lake Superior from those which take a northwesterly course and then northern direction towards Hudson's Bay, and for more than a thousand miles along great lakes, great rivers, and a succession of smaller lakes, a thousand miles across rolling prairies and another thousand through woods and over three great ranges of mountains lies North Western Canada whose dream of a glorious future when it shall be, “Greater Britain” and the highway across which the fabrics and products of Asia shall be carried to the eastern as well as the western side of the Atlantic, is soon to become a reality.”

Lord Dufferin says: “From its geographical position, and its peculiar characteristics, Manitoba may be regarded as the key

stone of that mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was here that Canada, emerging from her woods and forests, first gazed upon her rolling prairies and unexplored North West, and learnt, as by an unexpected revelation, that her historical territories of the Canadas, her eastern seaboard of New Brunswick, Labrador and Nova Scotia, her Laurentian lakes and valleys, corn lands and pastures though themselves more extensive than half a dozen European Kingdoms, were but the vestibules and ante-chambers, to that, till then, undreamed of Dominion—whose illimitable dimensions, alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor and the verification of the explorer."

This magnificent territory, rich in resources, fertile in soil, and varied in climate, possessing within itself all the elements necessary for the building up of a great nation may appropriately be designated, OUR VIRGIN CONTINENT. It is not my intention this evening to recount to you the details of the early history of this territory, how for years the rival trading companies were never at peace, how the Indian and the white man mingled in mortal agony; how patient women and starving children were too often "in one red burial blent." I might tell you of contests with the savage tribes and describe scenes of savage vengeance, which found their counterpart in civilized atrocities, and of the Red River Rebellion lead by Louis Riel, a fiend in human form, who cruelly put to death a true, loyal and upright citizen, Thomas Scott. But in a subject so large we have pleasanter themes to dwell upon. Let us turn to the results of peace.

THE ACCESSION OF THE TERRITORY.

On the formation of the Dominion of Canada, the leading politicians of the day, felt it to be highly desirable that this territory should be included in the new confederacy, and that the Government should acquire jurisdiction over the vast regions then under the control of the H. B. Co'y. Accordingly in 1869 the Company's rights, to all its remaining territories, were bought up under Imperial authority by the Dominion of Canada, and, as a monopoly, and a semi-sovereign power the Co'y ceased to exist. The glory of the great fur-traders has departed. Their vast monopoly is broken up; the husbandman, true lord of the soil, is entering upon their ancient hunting ground. Those parallel bands of iron stretching away to the west proclaim that a mighty revolution is in progress. The gray hunter full of memories of wild days gone by, shall hear the trains of the Canadian Pacific rumble along and see a vision of golden harvests and

smiling homesteads on the once desolate plains where he followed the buffalo.

The price paid for this magnificent territory amounts to one sixth of a cent per acre or one fifteenth the amount paid by the U. S. for frozen Alaska. Twelve years have passed since Manitoba became a Province, but only for the past six years, has there been any great activity in development.

An expansive territory awaits those engaged in every avocation of life.

ITS PROGRESS

during these few years has been most remarkable, something unprecedented in the annals of the world, and is of peculiar interest to us as Canadians from a national standpoint. Having traversed it in all directions, and knowing thoroughly its capabilities, the more one sees the more one is impressed with the conviction that the country is among the most fertile regions in the world, and you wonder with continued surprise that the productiveness of the soil and other resources and advantages are so evenly distributed for various and diversified pursuits.

In a commercial point of view, the territory, in 1872, could speak of barely \$50 000, worth of imports, to-day these have risen to nearly \$6,000,000,—the imports of Canada's ten year old adoption reaching within half a million of the value of New Brunswick's imports. At so early a period in our history, it promises well for our future, that we have, comparatively speaking, outstripped the older Provinces of the Dominion.

Ten years ago there was not a mile of railway in the territory. In December, 1878, the first railway train crossed the southern boundary of Manitoba, yet, to-day, Winnipeg is the converging point for six roads, and we have in operation nearly 1500 miles of railroad, in point of construction, the best on the Continent, representing a cost of nearly \$30,000,000.

The volume of our trade for the year ending in June 1882, swelled to the handsome sum, in round numbers, of \$7,000,000, and the whole territory is advancing in wealth and prosperity.

The treasury of the Dominion has been greatly benefitted by the increased trade. The duties collected exceeding those of the previous year by nearly a half.

The number of immigrants arriving in the country for the year, was 113,000; against 25,000 in 1880. The unparalleled progress of our North-West, has amazed the whole

world—cities and towns have sprung into existence in an almost incredible space of time. The railway crossing of the Assiniboine at Grand Valley a year and a half ago, consisted of McVicar's log cabin—to-day it has blossomed into the City of Brandon, with a population of 5,000. Regina, the capital of the new Province, six months ago, was an unoccupied prairie, now a town of 2,500 inhabitants.

THE GREAT CITY.

I could cite many instances where towns have sprung up as if by magic, but the most remarkable growth of a city ever known, and one of which Manitobans may feel proud, is that of the City of Winnipeg.

Ten years ago, situated at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, was a small hamlet, a H. B. Coy's post. Five years ago it had grown to a town of 5,000 population. Since then I have watched its growth until to-day this wonder city of the world boasts of 30,000 inhabitants, with its fine wide streets lighted with electricity, its street railways, magnificent water-works, palatial residences, extensive business houses, and immense wholesale trade, undoubtedly destined to become one of the leading cities of the Continent.

Its assessment valuation, last year, was \$40,000,000, and \$5,000,000 were expended in buildings and improvements. Down the great Red and Assiniboine rivers and Lake Winnipeg, 300 miles in length for a 1000 miles west, the produce of distant regions in the North and West, for more than 1500 miles is borne to the graneries and stores of Winnipeg, from whence it can be railed to the Atlantic, and thence shipped to Europe and other parts of the world. Nature has located the metropolis, and man has fitly named it Winnipeg. Other large cities will spring up within this territory, but Winnipeg must continue steadily forward, finally attaining the supremacy of commercial importance sustaining to the east, west, and north, the same relations which Montreal now sustains to the rest of the Dominion. The confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers might some day be rivalled by the forks of the Saskatchewan, but the climate of Hudson's Bay will first have to be reversed. Both sites are destined to become great cities, and both will one day find ambitious rivals in the Bow and Peace river countries.

OUR NEW PROVINCES.

An order in Council was passed last year dividing the North West territory beyond the confines of Manitoba into

four new provinces, or more properly speaking, territories, as follows:—

ASSINIBOIA, containing about 95,000, square miles, includes the Qu' Appelle, South Saskatchewan, and Souris rivers and Forts Pelly and Ellice. The principal town and capital is Regina, on the Wascana river.

SASKATCHEWAN, containing 114,000 square miles, includes the towns of Battleford, Carleton, and Prince Albert.

ALBERTA, containing 100,000 square miles, includes the Battle, Bow, and Belly rivers, the cattle ranche district, the towns of Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McLeod.

ATHABASKA, containing 122,000, square miles, includes the celebrated Peace river district. This division of the vast country known as the great North-West, will have the effect of localising points which hitherto were very indefinitely comprehended, and by having each its capital assigned it will form nuclei for new settlements. We may well say with the poet Whittier:—"The rudiments of empire, here, are plastic and warm, and the fragments of a mighty state are rounding into form."

RESOURCES AND PHYSICAL ASPECT—OUR PINERIES AND MINERAL WEALTH.

In glancing at the resources and physical aspect of OUR VIRGIN CONTINENT, we come, first, to that portion of the territory, between the head of Lake Superior, at Thunder Bay, and Lake Winnipeg, and which is ever before the public in the discussion of the Boundary Award. Ontario wants it, and so does Manitoba, because of the millions of wealth undeveloped in its extensive pineries and mineral resources, and, indeed, the value of the land, agriculturally, is by no means contemptible. The Rainy river, and other sections, will compare with the best in natural fertility, and the proximity of the whole tract to the free navigation of Lake Superior, makes it certain that high prices will be obtained for all the exportable surplus, while a large home market will be afforded by the lumbermen operating in the pineries with which the district abounds.

The lumbering value of this portion of the territory is simply beyond computation. Mr. J. C. Miller, ex-M. P. P. for Muskoka, places the value to the Province of Ontario of the timber limits in the debatable tract at \$125,000,000. This estimate was made upon present Ontario values of lumber, and there are many reasons why it is an under valuation.

Col. Dennis, late Deputy Minister of the Interior at Ottawa,

estimates that in the part of the disputed territory west of Lake Superior there are 26,000,000,000 feet of pine, board measure, and it is the only considerable tract of white pine in the world that is not being rapidly exhausted. It is absolutely certain that the pineries of the Northern States are rapidly approaching exhaustion. Mr. J. Little, lumberman of Montreal, says that eight years will see the end of the pine forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

It is estimated that in Quebec and the old limits of Ontario there is enough pine to last, at the present rate of consumption, for fifty years, but if the American demand should be doubled, quadrupled, or sextupled, as it is almost certain to be in a very short time, the pineries of these two Provinces, as they now exist, will be exhausted in a very short time after the American forests have given out. At \$40 a thousand, which is not a very high price for lumber in the North West, the standing pine in this territory is worth \$1,040,000,000. One small timber berth near Rat Portage, which was acquired at a cost of a few hundred dollars, recently changed hands at a quarter of a million.

The mineral wealth of this district is known to be very rich. A great city will grow up on the north-west coast of Lake Superior, probably at Thunder Bay, and the traffic of the whole Canadian North West must pass through the gates of this city. A milling business second only to that of Minneapolis must grow up at the Kaka-beka Falls, or some other of the many great water-powers between the prairies and Lake Superior, and Winnipeg will be the great wholesale mart for the great east as well as the west.

The Lake of the Woods receives the drainage of about 33,000 square miles of country, and possesses some of the finest and grandest scenery on the continent, with its 3000 islands, land-locked channels, the wild and rocky grandeur of its shores, far surpassing the far famed Thousand Islands of our St. Lawrence.

Look at the Valley of the Winnipeg, a river so beautiful and varied with its wooded banks and lake like expansions, the volume of its waters and tremendous power of whose rapids, seems to say to man, "let us rise up and build," on this great natural manufacturing site, a large industrial centre.

The Province of Manitoba is watered by three great rivers and the lakes of Winnipeg and Manitoba. The outlet of Lake Winnipeg is through the contracted and rocky channel of Nelson River, which flows into Hudson's Bay.

The mean breadth of the basin of this lake is about 380 miles by 920 in length, hence its area is approximately 360,000 square miles. Lake Winnipeg is 620 miles above the sea, and with lakes Manitoba, Winnipegosis and Dauphin covers an area exceeding 13,000 square miles or about half as much as Ireland.

The country possessing a mean elevation of 100 feet above Lake Winnipeg is marked by a ridge called Pembina Mountain, and may contain 70,000 square miles, which with the valleys of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers presents a magnificent agricultural district.

Succeeding the low regions there are the narrow terraces of the Pembina Mountain, which rise in abrupt steps, except where cut by the broad valleys of rivers, to the level of a higher plateau, whose eastern limit is formed by the precipitous escarpments of the Riding, Duck, and Porcupine Mountains with detached outlines of the Turtle, Thunder and Pasquia Mountains. This is the

GREAT PRAIRIE PLATEAU

of Rupert's Land, whose western boundary is the Grand Coteau du Missouri, which forms the north eastern limit of the plains of the North West. Its area is about 120,000 square miles. Manitoba contains only a portion of what is now often called the "Great Fertile Belt," whose area is about 380,000 square miles.

Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis within this Province are each one hundred and twenty miles in length. The head of Winnipegosis is at Mossy Portage which is about four miles in length, through low, wet ground, and connects with Cedar Lake on the main Saskatchewan. This important connection, which is occupying the attention of the Government, would form a water line of communication of 1500 miles in length from the city of Winnipeg to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

THE SASKATCHEWAN—ITS TRIBUTARIES AND COUNTRY.

The geographical position and extent of that section of the North West known as the Saskatchewan being of primary importance for the extension of settlement and commerce, and the highway of the Inter-oceanic Railway, now building to the Pacific, may be briefly described.

Its length from its eastern boundary westward to the sources of the Saskatchewan is about 800 miles, and its area is equal to that of France and Germany, or about six times that of the State of New York. The greater portion of this section contains the richest soil to be found anywhere in the world. The entire region in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains is extremely fer-

tile, abounding in forests, plains, coal-fields, prairies, lakes, streams, and mineral springs. And are these vast and innumerable fields of hay forever destined to be consumed by fire or perish in the autumnal snows? And those abundant mines of coal, can it be, that they are doomed to remain forever inactive? Not so! The laboring hand combined with capital is already developing our vast resources and giving them value; a strong, active and enterprising people are filling this spacious void, and ere long the wild beasts will give place to our domestic animals, and flocks and herds will graze in the beautiful meadows that border the numberless hills, valleys and plains of this our western inheritance. To-day Canadian enterprise is developing this land of promise. Already the electric wire that connects the whole civilization of the world penetrates to its western limit, and by 1887 the iron horse will follow its trail, carrying the food of man to the East and the West as well as the wealth of India and China.

The early pioneers, in a country like this, have great advantages in being able to appropriate the best lands and most eligible situations, and from the tendency of population being governed primarily by the direction of the navigable waters, so will the pioneer lay the foundation of thriving towns along their great extent to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

The north and south branches of the Saskatchewan, or Ki-sis-kah-che-wun (the river that runs swiftly) have their sources in the Rocky Mountains, but a few miles apart. From their nearly common source, the North Branch diverges north-eastward, and the South Branch, or Bow River, south-eastward, till at 250 miles due eastward they are 300 miles apart; then gradually approaching they meet at 550 miles eastward from their source. Their magnitude will be more fully understood by the following comparison, the total length being $1864\frac{1}{2}$ miles:—It is 184 miles longer than the Ganges; 1164 miles longer than the Rhine; 1649 miles longer than the Thames, and only 376 miles shorter than the Nile. In considering the character of the Saskatchewan and its country, I will limit myself to a brief description of some localities from notes made by me during a trip in the summer of 1881. Ascending from its mouth at Lake Winnipeg, there are two miles of strong current up to the Grand Rapids, which are nearly three miles in length. The country in this vicinity has a splendid soil; there is also an abundance of timber and fuel, for building; and game of all kinds; and between this point and the lake would be very favorable for the establishment of fisheries. The Pas Mission

at the mouth of the Pasquia River is about 85 miles further up and is a prosperous locality.

The next most favorable section for agriculture commences at a point about 140 miles above this, and the soil consists of a rich alluvial deposit ten feet thick; and there is a fair quality of timber. This character of country continues till we approach Fort La Corne, about 150 miles, and is well watered and drained by many fine creeks. A few miles west is the settlement of Prince Albert or H. B. Coy's town of Goshen. The settlement extends about thirty miles along the Saskatchewan, the farms fronting on the river and running two miles back. This is a flourishing settlement of about 4000 inhabitants.

The country drained by the North Saskatchewan from this point to Edmonton—a distance of over 500 miles by the river—as well as that of its tributary, the Battle River, is of a general uniform character, more or less interspersed with woods, sufficient for many years to come, with the gradual development of the country and opening up of the vast coal deposits and forests westward on its immediate banks, to supply the wants of a large population; and here I might mention that the coal-fields which cross the different branches of the Saskatchewan are a great source of wealth, and form the settlement of the valley, in which nature has multiplied picturesque scenery that challenges comparison with the most remarkable of its kind in the world. I would ask you if you do not think that this is a wonderful arrangement of Providence?

“Why, the formation of the coal is evidently a sign that the country is to be largely colonized. How came the coal? I could not help, as I stood on the banks of the mighty Saskatchewan at Edmonton and took up a bit of the coal handed to me, allowing my mind to wander back through centuries of by-gone ages. Philosophers tell us that on the banks of these rivers, it may be ten thousand years ago, there were vast forests. As these trees grew they drank in the rays of the heat and light of the sun, then came great convulsions that embedded them in the bowels of the earth; and then a great change came on—a chemical change resulting in these very trees being turned into coal. Now when the time comes—we are on the very eve of it—when British enterprise and capital shall have disinterred coal and scattered it by our railway system all over these magnificent territories, destined to brighten and lighten up so many hearths and homes of our people, what would it be, I ask, but a resurrection, so to speak, of the heat and the light that came from the sun thousands of years ago—heat

and light that have been buried in a sepulchre from which Canadian enterprise has rolled back the stone ? ” *

Immediately above the Forks the Saskatchewan is only about two hundred yards in width, but the current is swift. This point has every prospect of becoming a large commercial and manufacturing centre, the surrounding country being of unsurpassed fertility and commanding natural valuable resources through the immense system of navigation which centres there.

Looking northward, the country beyond the North Branch of the Saskatchewan is densely covered with an unusually large growth of timber in sufficient quantities for a settlement of almost any extent for many years, after which the extensive forests at the base of the Rocky Mountains, manufactured into lumber and floated down the same river, will be available for its needs in building, and the unrivalled coal-beds of the upper Saskatchewan will furnish abundance of cheap fuel. To the south and west spreads the beautiful Park Country which has given the Saskatchewan farmer natural fields of generally the richest land, dotted with lakes and groves. Seventy miles beyond are “the Moose Woods,” a rich alluvial expansion of the low valley of the river partly wooded, with rich glades between.

About fifty miles above this the South Branch approaches the Cyprus Hills, which extend 160 miles. This section is also well adapted for stock raising, being covered with fine timber, abounding in excellent grass, and well watered. Battle River enters the North Branch of the Saskatchewan about 170 miles above the main forks. It drains a large part of the country between the North and South Branches, where the pasturage is very rich. Coal presents itself there on the banks 250 miles from its mouth. The rich prairie country which covers the course of the Battle River and the northerly part of Red Deer River, and includes the North Branch from the forks up to thirty miles above Edmonton has a breadth of about 100 miles at the forks, 70 miles at the mouth of Battle River, and 70 at its source, beyond which the belt of fertile prairie becomes gradually narrower, and, turning to the southward up the course of the Red Deer River, becomes merged in the fertile region on the skirt of the mountains below Bow Fort, on the South Branch.

The Red Deer, Bow and Belly rivers are tributaries of the South Branch of the Saskatchewan, and drain a beautiful and most fertile region eight times greater in extent than Manitoba.

The climate is much milder than in Manitoba, and if not

* Bishop of Saskatchewan.

quite equal for farming in grain raising, will from its vast extent of rich, nutritious grasses become the great stock raising country of the west. Already the Cochrane and other ranche companies have large herds cropping the plains of this territory.

THE ASSINIBOINE AND QU' APPELLE.

Of the rivers not tributary to the Saskatchewan but running within its country, whose rich and beautiful valleys marked out by nature to be cultivated and inhabited by man, the most important is the Assiniboine, which by its very winding course is 600 miles in length. At 220 miles west from its mouth it turns northward and receives its tributary the Qu' Appelle, which continues directly westward for 250 miles. The Assiniboine receives five tributaries beyond this, all presenting a rich agricultural, picturesque, and undulating country. The Qu' Appelle runs through a most delightful valley and of which the expansion forms eight lakes, the hillsides are deeply ravined and wooded, the wild hop grows luxuriously, and in fact we travel through a rich and beautiful prairie, the finest in the whole country. But to appreciate the magnificence of our vast prairie region, in the graphic language of Prof. Hind: "It must be seen at sunrise when the vast plain suddenly flashes with rose-colored light, as the rays of the sun sparkle in the dew on the long, rich grass, gently stirred by the unfailling morning breeze.

"It must be seen at noon-day when refraction swells into the forms of distant hill ranges, the ancient beaches and ridges of Lake Winnipeg, which mark its former extension; when each willow bush is magnified into a grove, each far distant clump of aspens, not seen before, into wide forests, and the outline of wooded river banks, far beyond unassisted vision, rise into view.

"It must be at sunset, when just as the ball of fire is dipping below the horizon he throws a flood of red light indescribably magnificent upon the illimitable waving green, the colors blending and separating with the gentle roll of the long grass seemingly magnified toward the horizon, into the distant heaving swell of a parti-colored sea.

"It must be seen at moonlight when the summits of the low green grass waves are tipped with silver, and the stars in the west suddenly disappear as they touch the earth. Finally it must be seen at night when the distant prairies are in a blaze thirty, fifty or seventy miles away, when the clumps of aspen are reached by the fire, and the forked tips of the flames, magnified by refraction, flash and quiver in the horizon, and the reflected light from rolling clouds of smoke above, tell of the havoc which is raging below."

There may be some here to-night before whose eyes the whole wonderful panorama of our provinces has passed—the ocean garden Island of Prince Edward, the valleys of the St. John, the Miramichi and the beautiful St. Croix, the marvellous country, the home of “Evangeline,” where Blomidon looks down on the tides of Fundy and over tracts of red soil exceeding rich. You may have seen the fortified paradise of Quebec, and Montreal whose prosperity and beauty are worthy of her great St. Lawrence; and you may have admired the well wrought and splending Province of Ontario, and yet nowhere can you find a situation whose natural advantages promise so great a future as that of our great west.

Time will not permit me to describe each particular section fully, but from this it is not difficult to see that the entire expansive movement of population on the American Continent will be concentrated in the direction of our fertile valleys in this our virgin heritage. An English writer has said: Formerly the richest countries were those in which the products of nature were the most abundant, but now the richest countries are those in which man is the most active. We may justly claim to have both essentials in full measure. Our bountiful soil ensures the first, and our bracing atmosphere the second.

A MAGNIFICENT CLIMATE.

It is here that we may be possessed of perfect health, requisite for the highest enjoyment of life. What are bountiful harvests of golden grain, rich and mellow fruits, and all the wealth the earth can yield if disease must annually visit the home and death take away one by one the loved and young. Some may dispute the healthfulness of the climate, but it is a fact that the dryness of the air, and the character of the soil, which retains no stagnant pools to send forth poisonous exhalations and the almost total absence of fog or mist, the brilliancy of its sunlight, and the pleasing succession of its seasons all conspire to make the North West a climate of unrivalled salubrity. Whilst at New Orleans in July they have fourteen hours of sunlight, we have sixteen, with much longer twilight than they, consequently our vegetation grows more rapidly than theirs and matures much sooner. This is a beautiful law in compensation, as what we lack in heat is made up in sunlight during our summers. The country is not subject to hurricanes or other violent commotions of the atmosphere, but we have at times a touch of both extremes, a vibratory movement of the torrid and frigid zones.

Summer treads so closely upon the heels of winter as to leave but little standing room for spring. About the first week in April

the earth begins to soften, the woodland becomes fragrant and pleasant with last year's leaves and this year's birds; the little rills wander feebly riverward, and the wild ducks wing their flight along the water courses. During the following week the days grow warm and soft, rain falls in occasional showers and the thermometer varies from fifty to sixty degrees between daybreak and mid-afternoon. With the coming of the delicate flowers and vernal bloom of May the green grasses grow down close to the water's edge, the bright leaves spring forth and fling their shadows over the flood, the balsamic pine and fir kiss the placid surface with their overhanging branches, and inanimate nature expresses its joy and ushers into existence beautiful summer. With the progress of the year the supply of heat and moisture slowly declines until the autumn harvest has closed. The autumnal equinox passed and the season of vegetable growth ended, suddenly the fall of rain is arrested, and Indian summer is ushered in, the weather warm, the atmosphere hazy and every object appearing to wear a tranquil aspect. A few days more the sleeping earth lies quiet and serene when winter fairly reigns, the most healthful and invigorating of the seasons and is to many the charm of the year.

The continually mild and soft atmosphere of the Pacific slope, west of the Rockies, far to the north, is due to the beneficial influence of the Japan current. But the effect produced by this current does not cease here and the mountains form but a weak barrier to the atmospheric course of the so-called "Chinook winds." Through the gaps and broken ranges and even over the towering peaks these winds sweep over the whole territory until their influence is felt at the mouth of the Red River of the north. The isotherms make a great curve to the northern line of the Red River Valley, and approach the Pacific coast off "British America." The lines extend so far north that the mean temperature is much higher than the geographical position indicates.

While the Hudson's Bay Co. held sway over the North West it was the fashion to represent the country as utterly and hopelessly hyperborean. Echoes of the stories told in those days, of the ground remain ag frozen all summer, of mercury freezing and axes splintering against frozen trees, still float in the air and make men unable to believe in spite of all that has been recently written that it can be anything better than an arctic region. Calumnies die hard. The emigrant will find difficulties in every country to which he goes, but there are none in the North West that cannot be overcome by united effort and forethought.

THE INDIANS.

Now about the Indians. The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Saskatchewan, in the course of an address with reference to the Indians, once said : I think there is a great deal of misconception about them throughout Canada. You say the Indians are a good for nothing set. That is a serious mistake. The Indians of the North West Territories have been treated by the Canadian Government in a way, sir, that I cannot characterize more highly than by saying it is thoroughly worthy of the British nation.

At this present moment our Indians all through the North West are collected by the Dominion Government upon reserves of land. I have visited some of these reserves and can testify to that which I have seen with my own eyes. I observed that the Government has appointed instructors, whose business it is to take care that the Indians are taught the principles of farming. By and by, I have no doubt, we shall see a grand result in reference to these Indians. I am one of those hopeful individuals who look forward to the day when we shall see the Indian population making their bread honestly side by side with the white men who have come into the country as immigrants ; and all this will be the direct result of that eminently wise and far-seeing and thoroughly English policy that has been so consistently pursued by those who now conduct the destinies of Canada.

AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES—ADVANTAGES OFFERED.

The advantages which we claim this portion of Canada offers to the agriculturist as a field for settlement lies in the combination of prairie and woodland, the full advantage of which can be appreciated by the farming community who have had practical experience of the great and continued labor required to clear off and cultivate a farm in a wooded country.

The settler expends ten or fifteen years of the best part of his life in toilsome struggles to convert his farm into such proportions of open and wooded land, as the settler on our partly wooded prairie lands finds his when he goes on it, and he actually receives a free gift of a ready made farm of the richest kind.

Besides this relief there is another advantage of prairie land that operates strongly in the settler's favor—that is the infinite abundance of the rich grasses for summer and winter food for cattle with which he is surrounded.

The soil possesses greater capabilities for the production of the cereals, wheat, oats and barley. Analysis by eminent European chemists and the experience of our farmers have established this fact.

While the soil is adapted to wheat growing, wheat is actually adapted to the soil. The grain is heavy, weighing from sixty-two to sixty-eight pounds per bushel. The yield ranges from twenty to forty bushels per acre, and often as high as fifty bushels. Returns from Prince Albert and other new settlements show a yield of forty bushels of spring wheat to the acre, in several instances mostly off newly broken land, the average weight being about sixty-three pounds to the bushel. Land in the Province of Manitoba, in the valley of the Red River, and which has been cropped for sixty years, last year yielded forty bushels of wheat per acre. The late Rev. Dr. Black's farm in Kildonan is an instance of this.

Root crops attain a prodigious size. I have seen potatoes as heavy as four pounds. Squash weighing over 100 pounds, immense mangolds, weighty turnips, carrots, onions, and all other vegetables common in a temperate clime. I am reminded of the statements of Horatio Seymour, and there are hosts of others, candid and patriotic Americans, who do not believe their duty to their country invites the necessity of decrying Canada as some of our own people consider it their duty to do.

The Hon. H. Seymour, ex-Governor of the State of New York, in the course of a speech, said :—

“ I saw thousands and thousands of acres of wheat, clearing forty bushels to the acre, weighing sixty-three and sixty-five pounds to the bushel, and was assured by undoubted authority that, on Peace River, 1,200 miles north-west of where I was, wheat could be produced in immense quantities equal to the best I saw in Winnipeg, while great herds of cattle were being fed without cost on as fine grassy land as the world affords. In short, between our north-western line of 45 degrees and 54 degrees 40 minutes (General Cass' fighting point) there is a country owned by England with greater grain-growing capacity than all the lands on the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean combined. The land laws of Canada are now as liberal as ours as to the homestead, pre-emption and free claims. People are crowding there rapidly, and towns are springing up as if by magic. Their great railway will reach the Pacific at the grand harbor of Puget Sound before our Northern Pacific, and it will be extended eastward promptly to Montreal.”

That is what an intelligent, high-minded, independent American authority says of our North West.

The official record of the Minister of Agriculture of the Province of Manitoba for the past four years shows an average yield of twenty-six and three-quarters bushels wheat per acre. This result was

obtained from the individual reports of nearly, if not every, farmer in the Province.

The average yield, compared with the average production in the State of Minnesota, as deduced from its own official returns, and which is considered the best wheat growing State in America, is only set down at twenty bushels to the acre.

In this comparison there is food for honest pride in our agricultural capacity, in addition to the wheat being of a superior quality, as has been proved by large quantities having been purchased during the past season for exportation to the older provinces, and even to the United States for seed purposes at a high price.

Then, to sum up, prominent among among our advantages are: 1st, the richness and luxuriousness of the native grasses; 2d, the great extent of unoccupied land affording for many years to come a wide range for free pasturage; 3d, the remarkable dryness and healthfulness of the weather. The sleet, slush, mud and the train of diseases which the damp and variable winters of milder climates inflict upon animals and men, are here nearly unknown. The cold, dry air sharpens the appetite, and promotes a rapid secretion of fat, and a vigorous muscular development. Wool grows finer and heavier, and mutton and beef sweeter and more juicy, the effect of climate and rich herbage combined.

What I have stated I have stated conscientiously from my own practical experience of four years residence in the country, for cruel is the man who draws immigrants to any country by gross misrepresentations. Changing one's home is to all a serious event. Shiftless discontent transforms many a man into a pioneer, who, finding a new country not a paradise, sends back evil reports of the land. No matter how milk and honey may abound, no matter how large and luscious are the grapes of Eschol, they are nothing to some tall Anak, who, becoming in the face of difficulties as "grasshoppers in their own sight," soon desire to return into Egypt.

On the contrary, nearly all those who count the cost before starting and who convince themselves that they are able to overcome those tall sons of Anak, succeed in subduing the land and enter into the possession of the milk and honey. It should be remembered that a new country is not the idler's paradise, that all its mines of wealth are surrounded by bustling difficulties.

THE CLASS OF SETTLERS.

The class that new sections really present good openings to are those men who are comfortably fixed themselves, who have a growing family, particularly of boys, and who wish their families

to grow up and settle about them, which I think is natural to all parents. Nowadays in old sections it is almost certain that the boys will stray away, and most of them to the west. Here the father can come to the new section, take up the cheap acres, homesteads, etc., enough for all his boys, and thus enable them to grow up about the home nest; this is sometimes wiser and better for all than, for the sake of a few years more of present comfort, to find themselves alone in middle life or old age with more or less of their sons drifting about away from them.

And we must not forget the daughters; for them there is no comparison between the two sections in the chances they will have to get husbands, that can get homes of their own, and all the independence that such possessions give them and theirs. Such men should go out and see if these things are not so. Educational facilities are attainable anywhere, for the munificence of the school grant is ample enough for all.

Again, the sons growing up with such surroundings and settled prospects will escape much of the foppery and unsettled views of life, than in older sections that show no openings except clerkships, while they will have opportunities of becoming prominent in the government of their own country.

To those who on reaching there will have nothing but their hands, if they will bear in mind that to create a visible something from an invisible nothing is a divine power, and that the odds are against them, though not as largely as in the old sections, and will accept and bear the disadvantage they labor under, be cheerful, hopeful, industrious, and prove themselves reliable—such men are wanted everywhere and in no place more than in the new settlements. In such places this kind of men never fail this, but few of them do so, hence the North West is not to-day short of good-for-nothings, but men of the latter kind going out there will find most discouraging competition in that line.

Manufactures of all kinds will be wanted, and will have the cost of transportation from present manufacturing centres, the customs duties, etc., as extra aids. The more primary or simple wants will need supply in the new sections, and the more costly and nice as they grow older. As all the people come from old, well settled and well furnished homes, so, too, will they have about them there all those little home luxuries they once had, such possession and purchase being only a matter of time. But those who go thinking to live by their wits, I care not into what new country they may go, will find some there ahead of them who in that worthless employment can double discount them.

WHAT WE REQUIRE.

It is by the cultivation of the soil that our resources are to be developed. Unless we grow wheat and raise cattle on our great plains we cannot prosper. Our immediate need is settlers rather than speculators; ploughmen rather than tradesmen; farmers rather than shopkeepers. The rights of pioneer settlers shall be protected and the welfare of our Dominion will be secured, not by having a few great landlords, but by having millions of small farmers. Monopolies often serve a useful purpose in accumulating and concentrating capital on needful enterprises or lagging industries; they are like the scaffolding which partly obstructs the sidewalk, but enables the workmen to erect the building. It may be tolerated as a temporary arrangement, but not as a permanent fixture, and so all monopolies will in the end give way to fair competition.

The ladders by which we climb in building up our institutions need not become the burdens which we carry on the pathway of progress.

GREAT EXTENT.

Here in this portion of Canada we have 2,500,000 square miles of territory, "a region grand enough for the seat of a great empire—in its wheat fields in the west—its inhabitants vigorous, hardy, energetic and perfected by British constitutional liberty. Southern political stars must set, though many times they rise again with diminished splendor, but those which illuminate the pole remain forever shining, forever increasing in splendor." * Here nature has carried on her operations on a grand scale and with a bold hand. Her mountain sare higher and more massive than the Alps and the Appenines; contrasted with her mighty streams the rivers of Europe are mere brooks, and were our great lakes found in the old world they would be dignified by the name of seas.

In our pineries we have some of the longest pine trees in the world; in our Saskatchewan coal-beds we have the most extensive in the world; in our fertile valleys the finest wheat in the world; and our climate is one in which the human race attains to its greatest development both in body and mind. The great grain producing countries of Europe watered by the Danube and its tributaries, Hungary, Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia, centering their trade at Odessa, on the Black Sea, and constituting the great European grain market for the British Isles and the western kingdoms, France, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Sweden,

* Hon. Wm. Seward.

Denmark and the Germanic confederation, afford but a faint development of the producing powers of our far west.

Through lands more rich than Europe's grain fields to a port more open than Odessa the Canadian Pacific Railway is passing. Its total length from seaport to seaport may be said to be 2840 miles. In the passes through the Rocky Mountains the Canadian Pacific commands a route 3240 feet lower than any of the passes on the American side of the boundary line and is both for the purpose of defence or commerce, the best and shortest railway to the interior and the Pacific, and its cost will probably not exceed \$100,000,000.

THE IMPROVED CREDIT OF CANADA—THE CAUSE.

We hear some Canadians grumbling that this territory is only a source of expense to Canada, but how comes it that the credit of Canada has improved so much of late in the money markets of Europe? Is it because money is plentiful? Would that induce capitalists to place their gold where they had no confidence in the security of the investment? No! The reason of Canada's improved credit lies in the fact that she has the great North West as a back-bone, that her future through possessing so rich and extensive a territory is an assured one. Like the United States before her she is bound to prosper, because within her own limits she has an almost unlimited market to supply in the future with her own industries, and therefore within herself she possesses all the elements to create wealth and prosperity, and no outside influence can possibly affect her manufacturing trade, while there is everything to show that when other countries may fail in the production of grain, she, as the greatest of wheat producing countries, is destined to become the "granary of the world." The outlay which Canada has expended on the North West we find in the public documents to be as follows: Purchase of the rights of the Aborigines, Military Force and Mounted Police to preserve law and order. These three items of expenditure were for the purpose of securing to Canada a foothold in the country. That being secured, the next thing was to organize a form of government and to survey the lands for settlement. The cost of the latter work has been up to this time \$1,469,246.37, but as an offset to this expenditure we find the following: Homestead fees, \$113,616; Pre-emption, \$1,007,104; Sales in scrip and cash, 922,515 acres, representing with what is still due, \$1,052,585.07, or a total of \$2,173,405.07, against \$1,479,246.37, being a balance of \$704,158.70 in favor of the Manitoba lands above cost of survey.

The only expenditure of the Dominion in this territory, which

is properly chargeable to it, is the cost of surveying the lands, and this by the above figures has been fully recouped to the Federal Government

The next expenditure to be considered is the outlay on the Canadian Pacific, and as it has often been stated that the burden of paying for this undertaking will fall on the shoulders of the Maritime, Ontario and Quebec Provinces, it may not be out of place to consider whether this is likely to be the case. Take for example the statement for 1881 of receipts and payments by the Dominion. I find that exactly \$23,857,347.43 was collected from the people in the way of customs, excise, and other sources of revenue. I also note that for expense of government, ordinary expenditure and public works, the sum of \$33,141,749.17 was expended. From this deduct the outlay on account of the Canada Pacific Railway, \$4,044,522.72, leaving \$29,096,226.45, a sum exceeding the receipts from ordinary revenue by \$5,739,879.02.

Now, allowing the latter sum to be an offset to the interest on the public debt incurred on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway, we find that not one cent is taken out of the pockets of the people of Canada to build the road, but that the credit of Canada is used in borrowing money for that purpose. I have already shown how the possession of this great land enables our Dominion to enter money markets with success, so it narrows itself down to the fact that in reality the credit of the North West is used by Canada to secure the means for constructing this national undertaking, and therefore this territory is under no obligation to the Dominion for the railway, especially when it is considered that in the future the people of Manitoba and the North Western Provinces will be called upon to pay both principal and interest of the great public debt incurred by Canada to build the road.

CANADIAN PATRIOTISM.

Now with such a territory as I have been attempting to describe (and the description is rather under than overdrawn), it cannot be denied that we have all the elements within ourselves of forming a great and mighty nation. The past with all its lessons and experiences is behind us, the future with its higher hopes and increasing possibilities lies beyond. That future can be as yet but vaguely seen, but we have every reason to hope that with the development of this magnificent territory, the Dominion of Canada will yet become a nation greater than those of the old world.

Here where civilization is day by day making its way farther and farther among the forests and prairies of our vast west, it is our proud destiny to bear the banner of progress,

Christianity and enlightenment ; to make the wilderness and the solitary place to bud and blossom as the rose, and to provide happy homes for millions of the human race who are now dragging out a miserable existence in the overcrowded towns and cities of the old world.

Unfortunately the feeling of patriotism which is a distinguishing feature in other nationalities is wanting among the young men of Canada. Of the many distinguishing characteristics of the Briton, none are more deserving of attention than his unconquerable love of country. In his estimation home is a sacred word ; his songs celebrate it, his laws protect it, and his heart turns to it from afar with unutterable longing. The soldier sees it in his dream ; the sailor beguiles with it the tedium of his lonely watch ; the emigrant speaks of it with husky voice to his companion in the bush ; and the merchant, toiling for wealth, sweetens his labor with the hope of returning to it. Did the Jew love Palestine and regard it as the Eden of the east, rejoicing in the abundance of its wealth ? Equally so does the Briton love his far famed isle and proudly speaks of her as "the glory of all lands." Around her ivy-covered castles he delights to wander, and to gaze upon her memorial columns, now venerable with age—the silent but eloquent remembrance of other days.

Similarly should we feel about this Britain of the west. While many here belong by birth to the British Isles, they now regard this as their home ; its privileges we all enjoy, its sorrows we share, and in its destiny we are deeply interested ; and, if the genius and enterprise of our ancestors have raised the little isle from the lowest depths of degradation to the loftiest pinnacle of earthly greatness, be it our ambition to imitate their illustrious example, and reproduce upon this continent, but upon a grander scale, the power and glory of the parent state. And if, in the true spirit of patriotism, we will labor for the social, moral, and material advancement of our common country, as a nation we will very soon become one of the most influential, important and powerful—a credit to our people and a blessing to the world.

In a secular sense the highest duty of every man is his duty to the state, and that citizenship which confers upon him protection by the law, the right of franchise, the right of every man under our glorious institutions, glorious in the fact that we live under a free state, in the active advantages of free thought, free speech, and all the blessings which our fathers have fought

for and handed down to us. It would be a sad thing, if possible, that these inestimable privileges should slip through our hands because young Canadians were unworthy to maintain them. As a young Canadian I glory in my nationality and am proud of my country, and I regret that young Canadians, as a rule, do not better appreciate their native land of promise. I can understand how the United States, with its forty or fifty millions of population, and how other large countries with higher responsibilities and greater reputations, at the present time, may look down on a young country like this, but I cannot understand how men born and brought up here cannot appreciate the great advantages and rich resources which they can enjoy. Emigration is the cry ! and the young men of Canada leave this expansive Dominion, with its inestimable blessings, which has been handed as a heritage to them, led on by false hopes, softer airs, sunnier climes and golden states, to cross the border, but I have been there and I can tell you that it is all an alluring, pretty gilded picture only to be seen on the canvas.

There was a time when a young man could find a greater field for successful enterprise in the United States than in any of our provinces ; but it was years ago, and the western world has changed its front since then.

The Dominion and the Union have exchanged places, and I would warn the young man who thinks of going thither against the special pleading of his countrymen across the border, who, captivated by the glitter and bustle around them, write that "business never was better," and you are certain of obtaining constant employment at good wages. Trace that letter to its writer and you will most probably find that it came either from a dry-goods clerk who is starving over \$8 or \$10 a week, or from a mechanic who at \$2 or \$3 a day is out of employment six months in the year.

I speak advisedly when I say that few Canadians in the United States are doing better than they could in Canada, while a great number fare far worse and bitterly regret the foolish step they have taken.

Could the young man just starting out in the world but see the trials that thousands of his countrymen have to endure, their want of comfort and sympathy when most needed, their make-shift to keep up appearances, their bitter struggles to keep the wolf from the door, the little they receive for their labor and the large amount they expend for the common necessities, as I have seen them in my travels through a great portion of

the neighboring Republic, he would not leave his own expansive native land for a home under the stars and stripes. Our country needs the assistance of all her sons, and I assure them that there are stronger inducements in our own vast west under our own flag than in that Stately Union.

There is no necessity to leave our own land. Stay within its bounds, anywhere from our Maritimes of the Atlantic to our Vancouver of the Pacific.

Agriculture yields a profitable return. The maintenance and future progress of the country lies largely with the young men; let us listen to the advice of those who are older and wiser, and have faith in our country and faith in its progress. If you must leave your native province, do not go to foreign shores; the whole area of the valleys in our new western Provinces is rich with undeveloped wealth. They are but a counterpart of the fertile Nile, the valleys of Isar, Bavaria, and the renowned Poltava district of South Russia. The richness of Miami Valley, Ohio, and the Genesee of New York State is traditional, but these sections are not superior in this respect to our vast heritage in the West.

In mineral resources and manufacturing capabilities we are not behind any country in the world. If our population is small there is room for increase. If we have winter storms to face, we beget physical vigor in enduring them. If we have difficulties to meet we will beget skill in overcoming. If we have few of the luxuries of tropical climes, we will be strangers to many of the vices and diseases that follow in their trail. If we cannot produce great quantities of corn, we can raise an abundance of roots and cattle. If we cannot grow cotton, with which to supply the mills of England, we can furnish prairie land to make a wheat granary for the world. No land richer in soil and minerals, in pasturage and fishing grounds, in climate and productions, in agricultural resources and manufacturing facilities—no wider domain of mountain and plain, of lake and forest, of river and seaboard ever became the heritage of any people than this OUR VIRGIN CONTINENT. We are unworthy of our heritage if we do not aim to make it a land where peace reigns, where righteousness dwells, where oppression is unknown and where Christianity has triumphed.

Then shall we be worthy of the legacy bequeathed us by our forefathers. For we must not forget that our Canadian heritage as it comes to us is a British inheritance. By birth and connection we are the children of that mother that sits mistress upon sea and girdles the globe with her colonial possession.

Then let us have faith and cultivate a broad feeling of regard for mutual welfare, as those which are building up a fabric that is destined to endure.

Thus stimulated and thus strengthened by a common belief in a glorious future, and with a common watchword to give unity to thought, and power to endeavor, we shall attain the fruition of our cherished hopes and give our beloved country a proud position among the nations of the earth.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
JAN 10 1918

